

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 19**

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**Introduced by ~~Senator Negrete McLeod~~ *Senators Negrete McLeod  
and Yee***

February 22, 2007

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19—Relative to West Nile Virus  
and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 19, as amended, Negrete McLeod. West Nile Virus and  
Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 23 to April 29, 2007, inclusive, as  
West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that  
2 can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and  
3 death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and  
4 WHEREAS, In the last two years, West Nile virus has killed  
5 24 people in California and sickened nearly 1,200 others; and  
6 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services and the  
7 Centers for Disease Control predict West Nile virus will again  
8 strength and pose a public health threat in California in 2007; and  
9 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,  
10 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs are the best  
11 way to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases  
12 borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and  
13 WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not  
14 limited to, ticks, Africanized honey bees, rats, fleas, and flies,

1 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, death, and a  
2 public nuisance in California and around the world; and

3 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors  
4 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of outdoor living spaces, both  
5 public and private, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,  
6 and reduce livestock productivity; and

7 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based  
8 on scientific research has made great advances in reducing  
9 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases  
12 such as plague, Lyme disease, and encephalitis, and new and  
13 emerging vector-borne diseases, such as hantavirus, arenavirus,  
14 babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes death  
15 every year in California; and

16 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout  
17 the State of California work closely with the United States  
18 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of  
19 Health Services to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and  
20 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-  
21 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

22 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits  
23 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector  
24 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the  
25 public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding sites on private  
26 property; and

27 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to  
28 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and governmental  
29 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about  
30 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology  
31 and control; and

32 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production  
33 of mosquitoes and other vectors on private, commercial, and public  
34 lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of mosquitoes  
35 and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and other disease  
36 transmission is high, detection of human cases of mosquito- and  
37 vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be misdiagnosed for lack  
38 of appropriate laboratory testing, and the formation of mosquito  
39 or vector control agencies where needed; and

1 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide  
2 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies  
3 or in areas where there are no existing controls; and

4 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control  
5 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat  
6 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the  
7 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working  
8 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight  
9 the educational programs currently available; and

10 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of  
11 California has designated the week of April 23 to April 29, 2007,  
12 inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control  
13 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the  
16 week of April 23 to April 29, 2007, inclusive, be designated as  
17 West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness  
18 Week; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of  
20 this resolution to the Governor and Director of Health Services.